

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

Claims 1-34 (cancelled)

35 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement for releasing a treatment fluid, with a longitudinal housing (2) with at least one fluid feed opening for feeding the treatment fluid and at least one fluid delivery opening (8) formed in the housing (2) for releasing the treatment fluid,

whereby in the housing (2) a fluid channel (5) is formed for feeding the treatment fluid from the fluid feed opening to the at least one fluid delivery opening (8), and whereby the section of the fluid channel (5) reduces from the fluid feed opening in the longitudinal direction of the housing (2),

wherein

the housing (2) is made from plastic, and at or in the nozzle arrangement at least one stiffening member (4) made from metal and extending in the longitudinal direction of the nozzle arrangement is provided, and

in the nozzle arrangement a longitudinal insert (3, 3'), in which a plurality of distribution openings (7) spaced from one another in the longitudinal direction is formed, is arranged so that the fluid channel (5) defined by the insert (3, 3') is in communication with the at least one fluid delivery opening (8) via the distribution openings (7), in order to feed the treatment fluid from the fluid channel (5) via the distribution openings (7) to the at least one fluid delivery opening (8).

36 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 35,
wherein

the section of the fluid channel (5) reduces continuously from the fluid feed opening in the longitudinal direction of the housing (2).

37(previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 35,
wherein

the distribution openings (7) of the insert (3, 3') are positioned congruent to the fluid delivery openings (8) in the housing (2).

38 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 35,
wherein

the section of the fluid channel (5) reduces from the fluid feed opening in the longitudinal direction of the housing (2) from a number of sides.

39 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 35,
wherein

all the distribution openings (7) have the same diameter.

40 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 35,
wherein

the length of the distribution openings (7) increases from the fluid feed opening in the longitudinal direction of the housing (2).

41 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 35,
wherein

the length of the distribution openings (7) of the fluid feed opening in the longitudinal direction of the housing (2) is the same.

42 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 35,
wherein

the distribution openings (7) have a differing diameter.

43 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 42,
wherein

the diameter of the distribution openings (7) reduces from the fluid feed opening
in the longitudinal direction of the housing (2).

44 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 35,
wherein

the distribution openings (7) are provided with countersinkings (9) on their side
turned towards the fluid channel (5).

45 (currently amended): Nozzle arrangement according to claim ~~45~~ 35,
wherein

the countersinkings (9) of the distribution openings (7) have a different depth.

46 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 45,
wherein

the depth of the countersinkings (9) of the distribution openings (7) increases
from the fluid feed opening in the longitudinal direction of the housing (2).

47 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 35,
wherein

the housing (2) is essentially parallelepiped in shape and the stiffening member
(4) is essentially U-shaped.

48 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 35,
wherein

between the at least one fluid delivery opening (8) and the fluid channel (5) and immediately before the at least one fluid delivery opening (8) a storage chamber (6) is formed for pressure distribution.

49 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 48,
wherein

the storage chamber (6) is in the form of a recess provided in the longitudinal insert (3, 3') on the side of the distribution openings (7) turned towards the at least one fluid delivery opening (8).

50 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 49,
wherein

all distribution openings (7) are arranged spatially at an offset to the at least one fluid delivery opening (8) in such a way that the treatment fluid flows out of the fluid delivery openings (8) via the storage chamber only after at least two changes in direction.

51 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 35,
wherein

the at least one fluid feed opening is provided at a longitudinal end of the housing
(2).

52 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 35,
wherein

the at least one fluid feed opening is provided at a middle section of the housing
(2).

53 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 35,
wherein

the housing (2) has a plurality of fluid delivery openings (8) spaced from one another in the longitudinal direction of the housing (2).

54 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 53,
wherein
the fluid delivery openings (8) are slotted or round.

55 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 53,
wherein
the fluid delivery openings (8) have the same dimensions.

56 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 53,
wherein
the fluid delivery openings (8) have a reducing width from the fluid feed opening over the length of the housing (2) or a reducing diameter over the length of the housing (2).

57 (currently amended): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 53,
wherein
the ~~slotted~~ fluid delivery openings (8) are slotted and are formed in a plurality of rows offset from one another in the housing (2).

58 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 35,
wherein
in the housing (2) a plurality of connecting channels spaced from one another and extending widthways in the housing (2) are formed in the longitudinal direction of the housing (2), which communicate at one end with the fluid channel (5) in the housing (2) and at the other with the at least one fluid delivery opening (8).

59 (currently amended): Nozzle arrangement according to claim ~~58~~ 35,
wherein

~~the connecting channels are formed~~ in a cover (11) which is positioned on the housing (2), a plurality of connecting channels spaced from one another and extending widthways are formed in the longitudinal direction of the housing (2), the connecting channels communicating at one end with the fluid channel (5) in the housing (2) and at the other with the at least one fluid delivery opening (8).

60 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 59,
wherein

the cover (11) is positioned with a fluid-tight seal at the housing (2).

61 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 58,
wherein

the connecting channels are arranged evenly spaced in the longitudinal direction of the housing (2).

62 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 58,
wherein

the connecting channels are distributed essentially over the entire length of the housing (2).

63 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 58,
wherein

each connecting channel extends essentially in a straight line transversely to the longitudinal direction of the housing (2).

64 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 58,
wherein

each connecting channel opens out into one of the fluid delivery openings (8) at either side of the housing (2).

65 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 58, wherein

a further longitudinal insert (3), which is conical in its longitudinal direction, is arranged in the housing (2) and defines together with the longitudinal insert (3') having the distribution openings (7) the fluid channel (5).